NEW SOUTHERN HISTORY

OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

R. R. Howison's Work Reviewed—The Colonization—The Revolution—Slavery, Secession and Reconstruction.

The call of Lee Camp for the publication of a Southern History of the United States does not come too early. The difficulty of finding an impartial history of the late war between the States sinks into insignificance, beside the great question of teaching the youth of the South how their fathers thought and felt with regard to those great interests for which they sacrificed everything that this world had for them—save honor. This difficulty absolutely vanishes in face of the fact they are actually learning partisan histories without knowing it, for while the North is turning out history by the ream, the South is comparatively silent. Neither magazine nor publishing house of any power or importance is open to us, and what our children read, when they read at all, is dead against us.

First, then we need a history, not a child's history of the United States, but a copious and an interesting history for students of a larger growth; it should not be too large to suit the needs of an ordinary reader, nor yet condensed to the capacity and adapted to the level of a child's intelligence.

Secondly, we need a change in the accepted method of teaching history. By our present method, the first book usually placed in a child's hand is the history of his own country, a patriotic measure which defeats itself. The twelve-year-year-old student does not really know who he is nor where he came from, nor can be made to understand the difficulties encountered by the framers of our Constitution, nor the errors which have borne bitter fruit, nor the wisdom which made unavailing efforts to save their descendants from evil. History is the only book of which we read the last volume first. Our second need is to put the history of the United States in the graduating and not in the infant classes. The student should first have mastered the histories of the world's infancy in Greece and Rome, and should then have been well grounded in our own early youth and manhood in Old English. He will then have followed the stream from its source, and can comprehend the political questions that form so important a part of our material life.

It is true that a few Southern histories have been compiled from the larger works of our own great men, but these alas! have the worst fault possible to such a work; in the effort to condense the subject for very young students and to adapt it to their intelligence, the interest has been lost, and that study which should be the most delightful in the world to American children is rendered dry and barren.

GRATIFYING TO THE SOUTH.

Gregg's History of the United States, already most agreeably commented upon in your paper, is certainly not open to this criticism, and it is receiving more and more attention from our people; we hope soon to see it in a cheaper and more portable form. In style and interest it leaves nothing to be desired, and it is peculiarly gratifying to the Southern heart, being the voice of an unexpected and powerful vindicator; nevertheless, it is not adapted for class use. It lacks the detail and the form necessary to a text-book. Written, as the author declares, for the information of his British countrymen, who begin to feel their ignorance upon a great event in modern times, the young people of America were not in his view, and he has made a book to be read with great delight by their elders

The object of this communication is to call attention to a work which more nearly satisfies our present need than anything which has yet appeared. It is written in Richmond, by a gentleman in whose heart the Southern blood beats warm, and published by a Richmond firm in excellent style, with the following title:

"A History of the United States of America. Intended for Students in Schools, Academies, Universities and at Home and for General Readers." By Robert Reid Howison. Published by Everett Waddey Company, Richmond, Va.

That this work needs some alteration before it can be perfectly adapted to its purpose is only what may be said of all human productions; but it contains so much of value and interest that it would be well to examine its merits before looking further for a Southern History.

In size it is no larger than the "Student's Hume," a book sucessfully used in many schools, and surely an American should be willing to give as much time to the History of America as to that of England.

The first point to be looked at in a work of this kind is the distribution of the subject. A common fault in our text-books is the disproportionate space alloted to the discovery and colonization of America and to the war of the Revolution compared with that devoted to its later and yet more important history. The usual arrangement is something like this: About one-third is taken up with the discovery and colonization of America; one-third more is alloted to the Revolutionary war, and the remainder is divided between the history of our country from 1781 to 1860—the period which it is most important to us to understand and to explain—and the story of the war with its results. A glance at these fractions will show that with one exception, which will presently be noticed, Mr. Howison has a better sense of perspective. The settlement of America by white people occupies but 188 pages, against 312 devoted to the colonial period, including the Revolution, and 270 to the subsequent history of the States to 1860.

The first of these periods is treated with a vivacity of style and a judicious selection of the most important incidents, which greatly enlivens the least interesting protion of our national life. Into this narrative are interpolated two admirable chapters upon the state of public opinion in Europe with regard to vital questions in our Colonial system. In them the history of witchcraft and of slavery are carefully reviewed, and they form an admirable vindication of our forefathers. The line of argument may be drawn from the following extract:

WITCHCRAFT EXECUTIONS.

"Eight years before Columbus sailed from Palos Pope Innocent VIII. issued a bull denouncing death without mercy against all who should be convicted of witchcraft or of dealing with satan. * * Alexander and even Leo X. lent their aid by successive bulls The result was horrible About the year 1515, in three months in Geneva, 500 persons were executed for the alleged crime of witchcraft. In the diocese of Como a thousand were put to death. * * * * * * Germany was a fruitful soil for such works. From the publication of the bull of Innocent to the time of stoppage of persecution for witchcraft the number of victims has been estimated at 100,000! The Reformation did nothing to mitigate these horrors. It seemed rather to increase them. * * * Not until 1736 did science and common sense triumph over false theology."

If such were the religious antecedents brought by our fathers from Europe, still greater were their errors in regard to the barter and sale of human life. Queen Elizabeth and Christopher Columbus were both slave-dealers without a qualm of conscience or a thought of disgrace.

COLUMBUS A SLAVE TRADER.

The fact that Columbus was "a practical slave-dealer" has placed Mr. Howison in the ranks of those who have chosen this centennial year, when the nations will meet to celebrate his great work, to detract from his glory and to reduce the immortal discoverer to the rank of a mercenary adventurer. And yet the vindication of Columbus is found in Mr. Howison's own works (p. 87.) Writing of the first slave-ship that touched American shores in 1620, he says: "This importation was made so quietly and was so entirely accordant with the state of thought then prevalent in Europe, that it caused no tremor in the hands that first recorded it.

One may well ask whether Columbus would not have chosen to remain quietly in his grave, "unwept, unhonored and unsung," rather than suffer the buffets of an iconoclastic age in its so-called efforts to honor him.

CAVALIERS COME TO VIRGINIA.

On another point Mr. Howison has followed in a more beaten track, when he writes with regret that so many of the first settlers in Virginia were of the class called gentlemen. "We find among them fifty cavaliers who are reckoned on the shipping list as gentlemen." "In the whole band we note only eleven professed laborers, four carpenters, one blacksmith, one bricklayer and one mason; but we find a barber and a tailor who would certainly be needed by so many 'gentlemen.'"

Notwithstanding these deprecatory remarks, and in some places they are even less complimentary, the South has reason to thank God that her early colonists were so largely composed of gentlemen. Broken in fortunes and restless in temper they may have been, but they brought with them some valuable things of which the tradition and inheritance is quite as important to their descendants as the simple arts of building ships and houses and of working the fields. The presence of that barber and tailor, so far from being a subject of censure, should be mentioned to their credit as being a very small allowance for a company of fifty persons accustomed to the decencies and refinements of life. It is recorded, moreover, by the same writer that under Captain Smith's wise and energetic leadership these "cavaliers and gentlemen were set to work in the forest with axes, to fell the trees and prepare boards for building. They soon began to relish their work and took delight in hearing the thunder of the falling trees."

THE BARBER AND THE TAILOR.

Mr. Howison is by no means alone in this view of the first emigrants; other historians have taken the same. Nevertheless, the manners and habits of a cultivated social life are of no small importance to men who have children to rear and States to found. Their lives may not have been stainless, and yet for proof that they brought with them the principles and theories of gentlemen, and transmitted the same to their descendants, the history of Virginia is brought in evidence.

NATHANIEL BACON.

One of these descendants is Nathaniel Bacon, a hero who, but for John Esten Cooke, has received very inadequate attention from our later historians; some have omitted him altogether, and others have passed him with a mere mention, for the reason, perhaps, that his movement was in one sense unsuccessful. To him Mr. Howison has devoted a satisfactory chapter, realizing that "Bacon's Rebellion" is an incident more significant of the spirit and temper of the colonies than any record of Indian or French wars, a germ of the Revolution that was to come, and that it offers, moreover, an element of romance that Americans can ill afford to lose.

THE REVOLUTION.

The second division of the subject, including the French and Indian wars, the history of the colonies culminating in the war of the Revolution is a vivid presentation of a familiar story, enlivened by whatever of picturesque incidents our history contains, by quotations from the inspiring speeches of Revolutionary heroes and orators.

In the 270 pages allotted to the history of the States prior to 1860, the historian has done the best part of his work. The graded development of our country's civilization is admirably described, and the problems which agitated the best thinkers of America, and with which we are still wrestling despite the stern arbitrament of war, are fairly discussed and copiously illustrated by the quoted words of statesmen on both sides of the questions.

The long and brave fight made by the South to maintain the rights of a minority has been fought in the halls of Congress, on the floors of every State Legislature and in every scene of public debate in the country. It is well to show to this generation that actual war was but a terrible episode in that struggle, and that is what few of our young people understand.

SECESSION.

The war of secession certainly occupied the position of an episode in the mind of Mr. Howison, for he has devoted to it only 42 pages, about one-twentieth of the whole volume, and this is the least satisfactory part of his work. We cannot expect that Lee Camp, for example, will be satisfied with this cursory mention of the gallant deeds in which they bore their part, and in a work of such dimensions, a fuller history of the war might surely be interpolated.

The 105 pages devoted to the period subsequent to the war almost compensate for the deficiency just mentioned. They contain a remarkably lucid account of a period so full of confusion and disorder that the historian may well pause in despair before his task. He has touched all its principal incidents with great judgment ,and leaves only regret that the scope of his work did not afford room for a more detailed narrative. The history closes with an account of the preparations for the World's Fair to be held in Chicago, Illinois, in 1892 and '93, so that we may surely say it is up to date.

THE TWO VITAL QUESTIONS.

There are two vital questions to be asked of every American historian—how does he stand on the question of Federal and State authority? and what are his views regarding slavery? On the first of these the work before us is entirely in harmony with the sentiments and principles of a true Southerner. Surely the following extract ought to satisfy all demands made upon him in this matter:

NEITHER TREASON NOR REBELLION.

"And, first, we must keep steadily in mind that this war did not involve either treason or rebellion on the part of the South. The writers of books, pamphlets and reviews who have called her movement The Great Rebellion, and have spoken of her people as traitors and rebels, have shown ignorance and prejudice united. The States that seceded exercised a right inherent in the very nature and constitution of the Government compact to which they were parties. Some of them had expressly reserved this right when they became parties, and their reservation had accrued to the benefit of all. * * Their acts of secession were simply acts as sovereigns undoing what they had previously done as sovereigns. The officers of the army and navy who had been trained in the Academy at West Point and the Naval Academy at Annapolis exercised the most sacred of rights when they left the service of the United States on the secession of their own States and entered the service of the States in which they were natives or residents. The South had contributed more than her full share of all the expenses of these institutions, and had paid for these Southern officers more than the money cost of their military or naval education; and had they remained with the North they would not only have been untrue to their real obligations of fealty, but they would have been fighting directly or indirectly against those dearest to them."

SLAVERY.

With regard to the second of these important questions Mr. Howison's position will not meet with unanimous indorsement. In his opinion, distinctly avowed, slavery was an abomination in the sight of God, and the war was a cleansing of fire ordained by God to remove it. Slavery is to him the pivotal point on which our history turns. He enumerates it amongst the causes of the Revolution, but he is ever true to his Southern blood in writing of it, for he states as a reason for placing it in our list of grievances against the mother country what many historians have forgotten to mention:

"On the subject of negro slavery the facts of history are all against the mother country in her fixed policy towards her colonies in America. * * * It was in the Southern colonies that the first earnest protest and adverse legislation against slavery began. * * * * It is no longer a question of historic doubt that all the Southern colonies passed repeated laws to discourage, and, if possible, to prevent entirely, the further importation of negro slaves.

"Throughout the statute boks of Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina these laws are copiously scattered. * * * We have seen that by the acts of trustees, under the original charter of Georgia, slavery was forbidden. * * * * But it was really England who broke it down. * * * * In 1760 South Carolina enacted restrictions on the importation of slaves and the increase of slavery. The English ministry rebuked her and nullified her action. * * * * In 1761 a proposition was introduced into the Legislature of Virginia to suppress the importation of slaves by a prohibitory tax. * * * The enactment was carried by a majority of a single vote; but from England a negative from the Crown promptly annulled it.

"In all this England alienated her colonies more and more, because it was evident that her policy was purely selfish and money-seeking. Whenever great barriers of morals have stood in her way in seeking selfish gain, as in the case of importing negro slaves into North America and opium into China, she has broken these barriers in the pursuit of money."

So does Mr. Howison vindicate his own people from the charge of having in the beginning sought and cherished this institution and bound it to their hearts with the sordid chains of gold.

And just here it occurs to me, Mr. Editor, to suggest to you and to the noble body of men who are calling for Southern history, that the Southerner who will undertake to collect and publish to the world a history of all the laws and the debates in the legislatures of the Southern States from 1800 to 1860 would render a timely service to his country, and would clear up many aspersions upon the South made by the ignorant even more than by the malicious. Such a composition would prove that we are not the bigoted and selfish upholders of an iniquitous system, but anxious and thoughtful men discussing a delicate and difficult problem, on the right solution of which depends our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor. Mr. Howison also considers the abolition of slavery the ultimate result, and its preservation the chief cause of the war of secession.

"Human slavery had been extirpated by the results of a war of four years, which began when the institution was in its fullest vigor and in the most benign form ever known, and when it was upheld by six millions of enlightened people; but which, under the wise rulings of an all-powerful Providence, resulted in the final destruction of slavery, not merely in the United States, but in every other civilized nation of the earth."

Notwithstanding this mote in our brother's eye,no writer has ever felt more warmly with the South in her difficulties or described more accurately her hardly fought battle for independence and justice in the exciting scenes connected with the admission of Missouri and Kansas, and no one has shown more clearly the ignorant fury and selfishness of the whole movement in the North for the abolition of slavery.

Besides the Southern character of his work and its spirit of truth to his own side and fairness to his adversaries, Mr. Howison is to be praised for a style so lucid that "he who runs may read," never tedious, vivacious, and yet devoid of all unnecessary ornament—an example of pure and unaffected English

His work may be commended to those for whom it is designed with the assurance that in its perusal they will learn to understand the government under which they live, and to love the country in which they were born. A. T.D.

Althrop and Its Library.

(London Times.)

The work of dismantling the Althorp Library has begun; in a few weeks those thousands of glorious volumes will be transferred to their new home, and their place, the great Northamptonshire house, will know them no more. The books came here from a score of collections; they have been here long enough to make it seem to everybody that here was their permanent home. The house and park are well known to all inhabitants of Northamptonshire and the Midlands generally, for Earl Spencer has always been extremely liberal in granting access to both; while the pictures have been often lent to London exhibitions, at Burlington House, at the Grosvenor Gallery, and at South Kensington. The books are everywhere, for Althorp is not like some other great houses, like Blenheim in the old days, for example, a house with one special room for books and all the rest for people to live in. On the contrary, to live at Althorp has meant to live among books, to live in rooms walled with books; and hence the removal of the books will work a far greater change at Althorp than it would work elsewhere.

The centre and crown of the Althorp Library is what is known as the "Old Book Room," a room measuring some 26x20 feet, and completely lined with books from floor to ceiling. It may contain perhaps some 4,000 volumes, and the shelves are very naturally and necessarily protected by pad-locked doors, with the wire network that is common in libraries. In this one room are gathered together the most precious examples of the presses of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with many volumes of later date, priceless for their rarity, or for their historical importance, or for their condition, or for their binding—the Gutenberg Bible, the two copies of the Mentz Psalter, the numberless first editions of the classics, the 57 Caxtons, the 600 Aldines. A certain number of the books are in the coverings in which they were set by famous French or Italian binders two or three centuries ago; but the majority are in the morocco of Charles Lewis, one of the best and most solid of English binders, of whose skill and workmanship the founder of this library had for some years almost a monopoly. Here, for example, are the two rows of Caxtons, the finest existing collection, since it not only contains perfect and well-preserved copies of all the commoner works of the great English printer but three that are absolutely unique As to one of them, its rarity is in no way surprising, since it is nothing but a single broad sheet, copies of which were certain to disappear and perish unless they chanced, as in this case, to be bound up in a volume with some other production of the press.

It was the late Mr. Blades, the celebrated Caxton scholar, who discovered the existence of this sheet in 1859, when he was making his first researches into the life and works of the father of English printing. It consists of nothing but a couple of prayers, very simple is conception and style, and, pre-Reformation as they are, quite such as we might expect to find in some of the Occasional Services in the Prayer-book. The other two unique volumes are samples of a kind of literature whose popularity has been its worst enemy, the romance literature, which, in the days of costly books and small editions, was read and re-read till the copies were fairly worn out and disappeared. Such has been the fate of "The Historie of the Victorious Prince Blanchardin," and of "The Four Sons of Aymon," as printed by Caxton; for here are the only two surviving copies. They are so fine and spotless in condition that it is evident that they were hidden away from the beginning and so escaped the vulgar fate of being read. We pass from curiosity to literature when we descend to the shelf below the Caxtons, for there are the four folio editions of Shakespeare, the Sonnets "Printed by G. Eld for T. T., 1609," and other books of the great age. The Sonnets is a delightful little volume, bound in peacock-blue morocco, and the folios are as choice examples as one expects in such a library.

The Guttenberg Bible was thought to be, from the point of view of the auction room, the most precious of all printed books, until Messrs. Sotheby sold, a few years back a copy of the Mentz Psalter for close upon £5,000. The rival claims would have been settled had not the present purchaser stepped in and deprived the world of the pleasing excitement of an Althorp auction, for here are copies of each, supreme in condition. They have been seen at more than one public exhibition, for Lord Spencer has always lent his books as well as his pictures very generously.

When we pass from the sanctuary sanctorum we enter another region altogether; we are no longer among books which stir the passions of the bibliophile, but rather among those which belong to the proverbial "gentleman's library." The vast billiard room, forty feet long and twenty-five feet high, with a gallery at half its height, contains thousands of such books—old treatises on botany and zoology, county histories, and the works of voluminous and forgotten divines. So with the "Domemchino Room," so called from a "Daedalus and Icarus" which is not a Domenichino at all, but a well-known picture by Vandyck; here is shelf after shelf of finely-bound "Histoires de l'Univers" and such like, with Strype,with Mungo Park, with multitudes of old quarto classics, and with the ever-amusing "India Occidentalis" of De Bry, a storehouse of pictures of marvellous manners and impossible customs. There are similar books in the "Raphael Library,"so called from the late "Holy Family" over the fireplace.

Then comes the last and most beautiful room of all, the Long Library. Here in a wheeled case is the manuscript catalogue, perhaps the first of the "slip" catalogues which are now so general, the slips lightly run together in vellum-backed volumes. The books are thousands in number, and assuredly no such furniture, for beauty and harmony, can well be found to take their place. There is not much of great bibliographical value, but the splendid purples and browns and golds of the morocco and Russian backs give to these spacious volumes a decorative quality which is unapproachable. The unique glory of the Althrop Library is that among this multitude of books of little enduring interest there are to be found four or five thousand volumes on which Time,"the only critic that does not err," has placed the mark of ever-increasing value.

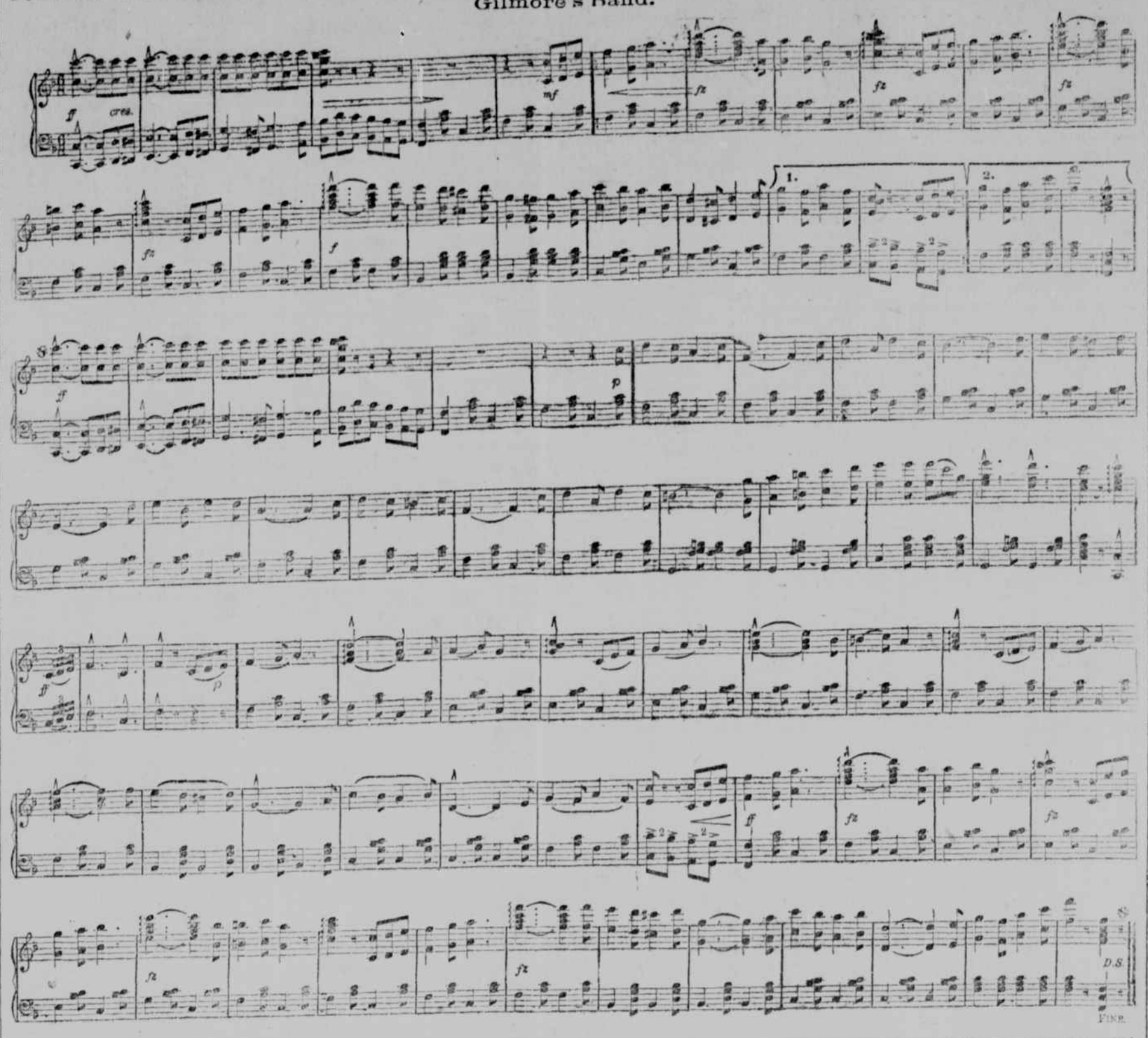
This library has been purchased by Mrs. Ryland, the widow of John Ryland, the great Manchester merchant, who started life without a penny, and died leaving about $15,000,000. It is said that the price given for the library was $1,250,000, and it is Mrs. Ryland's intention to present it to the city of Manchester for the use of the citizens.

For many years Mr. B. F. Thompson, of Des Moines, Iowa, was severely afflicted with chronic diarrhoea. He says: "At times it was very severe; so much so that I feared it would end my life. About seven years ago I chanced to procure a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It gave me prompt relief, and I believe cured me permanently, as I now eat or drink without harm anything I please. I have also used it in my family with the best results." For sale by Owens & Minor Drug Co., 1007 east Main street.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

"LES GARDES MUNICIPAUX."

Courtois' New March, OVer Which Paris Has Gone Wild---Arranged bv C. E. Pratt: To Be Played by Gilmore's Band.



FAMOUS AS FIGHTERS.

Jack Skelly, of Brooklyn, Geo. Dixon's Plucky Opponent.

MYER, THE STREATOR CYCLONE.

Both Have Won Many Victories of Note. Gossip About the Great Pugilistic Carnival at the Well Known Olympic Club in New Orleans.

The eyes of the sporting world have been for some time fixed upon New Orleans, the scene of the most elaborate pugilistic programme in the history of the ring, the battleground for the world's featherweight championship contest between George Dixon, of Boston, the present champion, and Jack Skelly, of Brooklyn, for the world's lightweight championship between Champion Jack McAuliffe, of Brooklyn, and Billy Myer, of Streator, Ills., and for the world's heavyweight championship between Champion John L. Sullivan, of Boston, and James J. Corbett, of San Francisco.

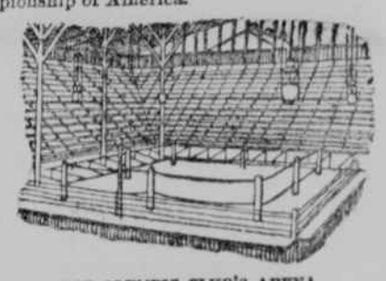
The stakes and outside bets of the principals—$17,500 for Skelly and Dixon, $30

JACK SKELLY.

000 for McAuliffe and Myer and $45,000 for Sullivan and Corbett, in all $82,500—are very comfortable figures for any person, be he prizefighter or man of peace, to contemplate.

The arena of the Olympic club, the scene of the contests, is one of the best appointed buildings of the kind in the world, and will seat over 10,000 people, it is said. The club is a very liberal one, and the largest purses and the immunity from police interference that it has offered pugilists have caused it to become one of the best known patrons of the ring. Many of the best battles of recent years, including the Fitzsimmons-Dempsey fight for the middleweight championship of the world, have occurred in the club's arena.

Jack Skelly, the opponent of Dixon, is new to the professional ranks, but he has quite a reputation as a game amateur pugilist. He began his ring career in January, 1888, by defeating Bibby Jones in five rounds at Long Island City, N. Y. Tom Hickey, Frank Neager and Dave Chenevick one after another acknowledged Skelly's superiority, and in 1889 the Brooklyn fighter increased his reputation by winning the amateur featherweight championship of America.



THE OLYMPIC CLUB'S ARENA.

Another match was then made between Skelly and Neager, and Skelly won in less than two minutes. At Newburg, N. Y., in April, 1890, Skelly easily bested all the crack 118-pound amateurs of the country who dared face him. Skelly's next victory was over John McTiernan, a 125-pound man. H. McAllister, H. Kellerman and Mike Leonard, all good men, met the same fate, and then Skelly received his first setback. In his fight with ex-Champion Johnny Gorman the referee gave Gorman the decision, but Skelly was unbeaten, and many of the spectators declared that he should have been declared victor.

Billy Myer, the opponent of McAuliffe, rejoices in the sobriquet of "The Streator Cyclone." He has fought many battles and carried off the honors, to say nothing of nearly all the cash, on most occasions. His first important battle was with Charlie Daly, of St. Louis, in 1886. The men fought thirty-one fierce rounds, and Daly was knocked out. In 1887 Myer whipped Harry Gilmore, ex-champion lightweight, in one round. The men met again in 1888 at North Judson, Ind., and Myer knocked Gilmore out at the first punch. In September of the same year Danny Needham succumbed in twenty rounds.

On Feb. 13, 1889, Myer and Jack McAuliffe fought sixty-four rounds at North Judson for the lightweight championship and $5,000. After the men had punched one another for 4½ hours, Referee

BILLY MYER.

Mike McDonald, of Chicago, declared the fight a draw. There was loud talk of "fake," but the friends of the men declared that both did their best to win.

Since the McAuliffe match Myer has been whipped by Andy Bowen, whom he afterward easily worsted in a second battle. His last notable exploit was his victory over Jimmy Carroll at the Olympic club, New Orleans. The men fought for $4,000, and Myer won in the forty-third round. EARLE H. EATON.

Not Her Fault.

A mother, indignant to find her little daughter low in her class at school, exclaimed wrathfully: "I'm out of all patience with you, Mollie. I should just like to know why Sallie Jones is always at the head of her class and you always at the foot."

Mollie hesitated for a moment, and then looking her mother squarely in the face said demurely, "You seem to forget, mamma, that Sallie Jones had very clever parents!"—Tit-Bits.